

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

This objective, showing a partisan piece within days of the election, should be looked at more strongly than the right wing's criticism of Michael Moore's most recent film. Some said that his piece was intended to be a tool to sway the election. It may or may not have been; that can be decided by each individual that chose to watch it in a private theater, or in a home on a private copy - not on public airwaves. Let's leave the public airwaves to the community, and not to the bidding of the corporations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.